

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 - 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for determining an interruption of a communication connection between a domestic appliance connected in a local area network to which further domestic appliances are connected, ~~to~~ and a bus line configuration having a bus line controller, which comprises the steps of:

transmitting information to the bus line controller about an appliance status of the domestic appliance;

allocating the domestic appliance a unique address for identification of the domestic appliance in the local area network;

repeatedly requesting a specific fixed criterion of the domestic appliance over time by the bus line controller if the

information includes change information on the appliance  
status;

transmitting a reply signal from the domestic appliance to the  
bus line controller if the communication connection exists  
between the domestic appliance and the bus line controller, an  
absence of the reply signal being interpreted as an  
interruption of the communication connection with the domestic  
appliance resulting in a performance of a search operation for  
the domestic appliance, the search operation including the  
steps of:

~~transmitting~~broadcasting a general interrogation signal  
from the bus line controller ~~to the domestic appliance~~  
over the bus line configuration until the reply signal is  
received from the domestic appliance again; and

subsequently transmitting further information  
corresponding to a then valid current status of the  
domestic appliance to the bus line controller.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to  
claim 11, which further comprises requesting the specific  
fixed criterion of the domestic appliance cyclically.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the appliance status is the specific fixed criterion of the domestic appliance.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, which further comprises carrying out the search operation cyclically.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, which further comprises transmitting a current status of the domestic appliance to the bus line controller only after the domestic appliance has been allocated the unique address in the local area network via a registration procedure.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A device for determining an interruption of a communication connection between a domestic appliance connected in a local area network to which further domestic appliances are connected, the device comprising:

a bus line configuration having a bus line controller, said bus line controller receiving information pertaining to an appliance status of the domestic appliance;

said bus line controller programmed to allocate a unique address for identifying the domestic appliance in the local area network;

said bus line controller programmed to repeatedly request over time a specified fixed criterion of the domestic appliance when the information transmitted contains change information from the domestic appliance regarding the appliance status;

said bus line controller configured such that in a presence of the communication connection to the domestic appliance, said bus line controller receiving a reply signal from the domestic appliance; and

said bus line controller containing an evaluation device configured such that, in an absence of the reply signal, said evaluation device providing a message signal indicating an interruption of the communication connection to the domestic appliance, and said bus line controller being constructed so that in response to the message signal, said bus line

controller carries out a search operation for the domestic appliance wherein said bus line controller broadcasts a general interrogation signal ~~is transmitted over the bus line configuration~~ until the reply signal is obtained from the domestic appliance again, and said bus line controller is further constructed such that said bus line controller then allows information corresponding to a then valid current appliance status to be received.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The device according to claim 16, wherein said bus line controller is a controller which cyclically requests the specified fixed criterion of the domestic appliance.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The device according to claim 16, wherein said bus line controller is a controller which cyclically repeatedly requests the appliance status of the domestic appliance.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The device according to claim 16, wherein said bus line controller is a controller which cyclically carries out the search operation.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The device according to claim 16, wherein said bus line controller is configured such that before receiving the appliance status of the domestic appliance, said bus line controller performs a registration procedure by which the domestic appliance obtains the unique address in the local area network by which it can be reached in the local area network.

Claim 21 (new): A method for determining an interruption of a communication connection between a domestic appliance connected in a local area network to which further domestic appliances are connected, and a bus line configuration having a bus line controller, which comprises the steps of:

transmitting information to the bus line controller about a state of the domestic appliance;

allocating the domestic appliance a unique address for identification of the domestic appliance in the local area network;

repeatedly requesting a specific fixed criterion of the domestic appliance over time by the bus line controller if the information indicates a change in the state of the appliance;

transmitting a reply signal from the domestic appliance to the bus line controller if the communication connection exists between the domestic appliance and the bus line controller, an absence of the reply signal being interpreted as an interruption of the communication connection with the domestic appliance resulting in a performance of a search operation for the domestic appliance, the search operation including the steps of:

transmitting a general interrogation signal from the bus line controller to the domestic appliance until the reply signal is received from the domestic appliance again; and

subsequently transmitting information corresponding to a then valid current state of the domestic appliance to the bus line controller.

Claim 22 (new): The method according to claim 11, which further comprises requesting the specific fixed criterion of the domestic appliance cyclically.

Claim 23 (new): The method according to claim 11, wherein the appliance status is the specific fixed criterion of the domestic appliance.

Claim 24 (new): The method according to claim 11, which further comprises carrying out the search operation cyclically.

Claim 25 (new): The method according to claim 11, which further comprises transmitting a current status of the domestic appliance to the bus line controller only after the domestic appliance has been allocated the unique address in the local area network via a registration procedure.